AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 (Currently amended). An eating utensil comprising

a handle,

a food-carrying platform carried by the handle and having a top surface and a bottom surface, the food-carrying platform extending along an axis, and

at least one blunt projection comprising a pliable material and extending radially from at least one of the top surface and the bottom surface.

2 (Original). An eating utensil as in claim 1

wherein the projection is convex dome-shaped.

3 (Original). An eating utensil as in claim 1

wherein the projection is elongated.

4 (Original). An eating utensil as in claim 3

wherein the projection is curvilinear.

5 (Original). An eating utensil as in claim 3

wherein the projection is linear.

6 (Original). An eating utensil as in claim 3

wherein the projection is elongated along the axis of the food-carrying platform.

7 (Original). An eating utensil as in claim 3

wherein the projection is elongated traverse the axis of the food-carrying platform.

8 (Original). An eating utensil as in claim 1

wherein the food-carrying platform has at least one tine.

9 (Original). An eating utensil as in claim 1

wherein the food-carrying platform comprises a concave bowl.

10 (Original). An eating utensil as in claim 1

wherein the projection is adapted to contact the surface of an individual's tongue to provide oral tactile stimulation as the projection is advanced over the tongue.

11 (Currently amended). An eating utensil comprising

a handle,

a food-carrying platform carried by the handle and having a top surface and a bottom surface, the food-carrying platform extending along an axis, and

at least one elongated blunt projection extending radially from at least one of the top surface and the bottom surface and extending traverse the axis of the food-carrying platform.

12 (Original). An eating utensil as in claim 11

wherein the projection is curvilinear.

13 (Original). An eating utensil as in claim 11

wherein the projection is linear.

14 (Original). An eating utensil as in claim 11

wherein the food-carrying platform has at least one tine.

15 (Original). An eating utensil as in claim 11

wherein the food-carrying platform comprises a concave bowl.

16 (Original). An eating utensil as in claim 11

wherein the projection is adapted to contact the surface of an individual's tongue to provide oral tactile stimulation as the projection is advanced over the tongue.

17 (Currently amended). An eating utensil comprising

a handle,

a food-carrying platform carried by the handle and having a top surface and a bottom surface, the food-carrying platform extending along an axis, and

at least at least one convex, dome-shaped blunt extending radially from at least one of the top surface and the bottom surface.

18 (Original). An eating utensil as in claim 17

wherein the food-carrying platform has at least one tine.

19 (Original). An eating utensil as in claim 17

wherein the food-carrying platform comprises a concave bowl.

20 (Original). An eating utensil as in claim 17

wherein the projection is adapted to contact the surface of an individual's tongue to provide oral tactile stimulation as the projection is advanced over the tongue.

21-23 (Canceled).

24 (New). An eating utensil as in claim 1

wherein the projection extends radially from the bottom surface.

25 (New). An eating utensil as in claim 11

wherein the projection extends radially from the bottom surface.

26 (New). An eating utensil as in claim 17

wherein the projection extends radially from the bottom surface.

27 (New). A method of providing oral sensory stimulating utensil feeding comprising the steps of

providing an eating utensil having a handle and a food-carrying platform carried by the handle, the food-carrying platform extending along an axis and having a top surface and a bottom surface and at least one blunt projection extending radially from at least one of the top surface and the bottom surface,

introducing the utensil into an individual's mouth so that the projection contacts the individual's tongue to provide oral tactile stimulation, and

advancing the utensil backward over the tongue while maintaining contact between the projection and the tongue.

28 (New). A method as in claim 27, further comprising

placing food on the platform prior to introducing the utensil into the individual's mouth.

29 (New). A method as in claim 27

wherein the projection comprises a pliable material

30 (New). A method as in claim 27

wherein the projection is elongated traverse the axis of the food-carrying platform.

31 (New). A method as in claim 27

wherein the projection is convex, dome-shaped.

32 (New). A method as in claim 27

wherein the projection extends radially from the bottom surface.